

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 5 1. (Currently Amended) A PCI-Express slot for coupling devices to a host system, comprising:
- a PCI-Express connector for receiving a card that can to couple at least two PCI-Express devices using at least two independent set of PCI-Express lanes without using a PCI-Express bridge.
- 10 2. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.
3. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.
4. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein twelve PCI-Express
- 15 lanes are used to couple at least two devices.
5. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.
6. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.
- 20 7. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express slot of Claim 1, where X2, X4, X8, X12, X12, X16 or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for coupling plural PCI-Express devices ~~adapters~~ to a host system, comprising:

a motherboard with a PCI-Express slot having a PCI-Express connector that re-
ceives a card to ~~can~~ couple at least two PCI-Express devices using at least two independ-
5 ent set of PCI-Express lanes without using a PCI-Express bridge.

9. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

11. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein twelve PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

13. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

14. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 8, wherein X2, X4, X8, X12, X12, X16 or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express de-
vices.

15. (Currently Amended) A PCI-Express connector in a PCI-Express slot for a mother
20 board for coupling PCI-Express devices to a host system, comprising:

a connector that ~~can couple~~ couples at least two PCI-Express devices using at least two independent set of PCI-Express lanes without using a PCI-Express bridge.

16. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein four PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

17. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein eight PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

5 18. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein twelve PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

19. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein sixteen PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

10 20. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein thirty two PCI-Express lanes are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

21. (Currently Amended) The PCI-Express connector of Claim 15, wherein X2, X4, X8, X12, X16 or X32 PCI-Express lane configurations are used to couple the at least two PCI-Express devices.

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